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Rhett B. White, Director

November 1, 2001

Ms. Ann Terbush  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Protected Resources (F/PRI)  
Permits Division  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Terbush:

On behalf of the North Carolina Aquariums, I fully endorse the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) comments with regard to the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed regulations pertaining to public display of marine mammals. Although the three North Carolina Aquariums do not display marine mammals, we believe it is essential that display by accredited facilities be allowed and encouraged.

Education is important to public understanding and environmental action to rebuild the stocks of marine mammal species. This is best done when live animals are displayed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and to support the AZA position.

Yours sincerely,

Rhett B. White

cc: David Griffin  
Jay Barnes  
Dr. Jim Lanier  
Steve Olson



NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES • JAMES B. HUNT JR., GOVERNOR • BILL HOLMAN, SECRETARY